

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-02 SS-15 EB-07 /035 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9811

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 1575

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, HO

SUBJECT: STATUS OF ENRIQUE LOPEZ BALBOA

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1520 AND AMBASSADOR-LAZAR TELCON

1. ENRIQUE LOPEZ BALBOA CALLED EMBASSY MIDDAY APRIL 21 TO DESCRIBE PERSONAL SITUATION. HE SAID THAT HE WENT TO INVESTIGATING COMMISSION ON AFTERNOON OF APRIL 20 AND PRESENTED HIS REQUEST TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. JORGE ARTURO REINA, COORDINATOR OF THE COMMISSION, TOLD LOPEZ BALBOA THAT THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH HIS SITUATION, BUT COULD NOT LET HIM LEAVE THE COUNTRY UNTIL HIS TESTIMONY HAS BEEN VERIFIED BY COMPANY OFFICIALS IN THE U.S.

2. ACCORDING TO LOPEZ BALBOA, REINA TOLD HIM THAT COMMISSION WILL LEAVE FOR THE UNITED STATES ON APRIL 22 AND WOULD INTERVIEW UB OFFICIALS THERE. THE COMMISSION WILL LEAVE A LETTER IN THE HANDS OF THE MINISTRY OF GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZING THE MINISTRY TO PERMIT LOPEZ BALBOA TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY WHEN THE COMMISSION NOTIFIES THE MINISTRY ON APRIL 23 THAT HIS TESTIMONY HAS BEEN VERIFIED.

3. LOPEZ BALBOA WILLING TO ACCEPT DELAY OF DEPARTURE UNTIL THEN. LOPEZ BALBOA TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WILL REQUEST EMBASSY INTERVENTION WITH GOH IF HE IS NOT PERMITTED TO DEPART ON APRIL 23.

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4. IN VIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT

DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY AS INSTRUCTED BY DEPARTMENT
BE DELAYED. MATTER CAN BE TAKEN UP IF LOPEZ BALBOA DOES
NOT RECEIVE DEPARTURE PERMISSION APRIL 23.
SANCHEZ

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